

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 IO-13 ACDA-12 /092 W  
-----034663 011823Z /42

R 011552Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4605  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL GENOA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
AMCONSUL PALERMO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
DIA WASHDC  
USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USDOCOSUTH  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 14092

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF  
SHAPEUSNR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT,IT  
SUBJ: MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY JULY 27-28

BEGIN SUMMARY. MEETING IN ROME ON JULY 27-28, THE SOCIAL  
DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE REITERATED ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT  
FOR THE PRESENT GOVERNING ARRANGEMENT WHILE INSISTING THAT IT  
MUST BE REGARDED AS TEMPORARY, TO BE REPLACED AS SOON AS THE  
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CURRENT EMERGENCY ENDS. THE PARTY LEADERSHIP'S DESIRE TO  
STRENGTHEN COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND  
SOCIALISTS WAS ALSO EVIDENT AT THE SESSION. PRIVATELY PARTY  
LEADERS ARE DOUBTFUL THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNING ARRANGEMENT  
CAN SURVIVE THROUGH THE FALL. END SUMMARY

1. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MET

IN ROME ON JULY 27-28. THE MEETING OPENED WITH A SPEECH BY PARTY SECRETARY ROMITA WHO STRESSED TWO MAIN THEMES. FIRST, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PRESENT GOVERNING ARRANGEMENT; HOWEVER, THIS ARRANGEMENT HAD TO BE RECOGNIZED AS TEMPORARY. MOREOVER, IT COMPROMISED, BECAUSE IT LEFT NO REAL POLITICAL OPPOSITION, THE TENETS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY. SECOND, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FACED A FUNDAMENTAL CHOICE BETWEEN COOPERATION WITH THE PARTIES OF THE "SOCIALIST AREA" OR GIVING AN INCREASED ROLE TO THE COMMUNISTS.

#### DEBATE

2. IN THE DEBATE WHICH FOLLOWED ROMITA'S SPEECH, TWO MAIN POINTS OF VIEW WERE EXPRESSED--THAT OF THE PARTY'S RIGHT WING LED BY PRETI, WHICH FAVORED AN INDEPENDENT ROLE BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND THAT OF ANOTHER GROUP, LED BY CARIGLIA, WHICH CALLED FOR A "FEDERATED ALLIANCE" WITH THE SOCIALISTS. ROMITA SUCCESSFULLY MEDIATED BETWEEN THESE TWO GROUPS BY PRESSING HIS OWN APPROACH OF THE "SOCIALIST AREA," WHICH HE DEFINED AS A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WITH EACH IN ITS OWN WAY RESISTING THE HEGEMONY OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND COMMUNISTS.

#### AGREED DECLARATION

3. IN CONCLUDING THE SESSION, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
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APPROVED (WITH A SINGLE DISSENT AND THE ABSTENTION OF PRETI)

A DECLARATION WHICH MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON OCTOBER 15 TO  
FIX A DATE FOR A NATIONAL CONGRESS, TO TAKE PLACE  
BY FEBRUARY 1979.

--THE PARTIES OF THE "SOCIALIST AREA" SHOULD PRESS  
THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH  
THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF THE DAY.

--THE AUTONOMOUS COURSE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY GIVES  
HOPE THAT THE COORDINATED ACTION BETWEEN SOCIAL  
DEMOCRATS AND THE SOCIALISTS CAN SUCCESSFULLY RESIST THE  
BIPOLARISM OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND COMMUNISTS.

--THE PRESENT GOVERNING ARRANGEMENT IS INCONSISTENT  
WITH PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND MUST COME TO AN END  
AS SOON AS THE CURRENT EMERGENCY IS OVER.

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INTERVIEW

4. FOLLOWING THE SESSION, ROMITA GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO  
LA REPUBBLICA (JULY 30) WHICH IS WORTH SUMMARIZING BECAUSE  
IT CLEARLY EXPRESSES THE CURRENT VIEWS OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP.  
"YOU ARE BEGINNING TO SEE," THE PARTY SECRETARY SAID AT THE OUTSET,  
"A FUNDAMENTAL COINCIDENCE OF OBJECTIVE BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST  
AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. CERTAINLY IT IS NOT YET  
TIME FOR UNIFICATION NOR EVEN FOR FEDERATION; BUT A  
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REINFORCEMENT OF THE "SOCIALIST AREA" IS NUCESSARY. DEVELOPING  
THIS JOINT APPROACH COULD LEAD TO POSSIBLE UNIFICATION BUT WE  
WANT TO AVOID AN AGREEMENT ONLY AT THE TOP LEVEL, WHICH WAS  
THE PROBLEM TEN YEARS AGO." ASKED AOUT HIS PARTY'S ULTIMATE  
OBJECTIVE, ROMITA REPLIED, "OUR AIM IS TO MAKE DEMOCRATIC  
SOCIALISM IN ITALY THE TRUE ALTERNATIVE TO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY.

HOWEVER, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SPEAK OF THE ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT UNTIL THE COMMUNISTS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL REVISION. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE "SOCIALIST AREA" TO PROMOTE THIS REVISIONIST PROCESS, TO BRING THE ENTIRE LEFT TO A SOLID DEMOCRATIC POSITION. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE SOCIALIST PARTY HAS ALSO UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT; UP TO A SHORT TIME AGO IT WAS PURSUING AN ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT WITH THE COMMUNISTS; NOW IT UNDERSTANDS THAT AN ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT MUST FIRST BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE "SOCIALIST AREA."

COMMENT

5. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONTINUES TO BE FRAGMENTED IN MANY SMALL FACTIONS WHICH ROMITA HAS SO FAR SUCCESSFULLY MANAGED TO HOLD TOGETHER WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MOVING HIS PARTY TOWARD A GREATER COOPERATION WITH THE SOCIALISTS. THIS COOPERATION WAS IN CLEAR EVIDENCE DURING THE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST AND WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE MAINTAINED DURING THE ANTICIPATED HOT AUTUMN. WHAT ROMITA DID NOT SAY AT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING OR IN HIS INTERVIEW BUT WHAT VICE SECRETARY PIETRO LONGO TOLD THE EMBASSY A SHORT TIME AGO IS THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP DOES NOT SEE HOW THE PRESENT ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT CAN SURVIVE THROUGH THE FALL. LONGO SAID THAT THE PRESENT CABINET IS UTTERLY UNCOORDINATED AND UNEQUAL TO THE PROBLEMS THAT WILL INEVITABLY ARISE IN THE COMING MONTHS. IN THIS SITUATION LONGO ANTICIPATED THAT SINCE ALL THE PARTIES WOULD CONTINUE TO WANT TO AVOID

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AN EARLY NATIONAL ELECTION, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE REPLACED BY A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC, SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COALITION ARRANGEMENT.

6. IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LONGO MAY BE CORRECT IN PREDICTING THE FALL OF THE GOVERNMENT BY THE END OF THE YEAR; BUT IT IS AFR FROM PREDICTABLE THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE THE FORM OF THE COALITION WHICH LONGO HAS IN MIND. HOLMES

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## Message Attributes

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